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INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY Albania

DATE DISTR. 22 April 1952

SUBJECT	1. Divisions of Ministry of National Military Defense
	2. Location and Organization of Military Units
	3. Location of Storage Tanks and Barracks
DATE OF	4. Air Force and Navy Information

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THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

1. The Ministry of National Defense had the following divisions:
 - a. Staff of Enver Hoxha.
 - b. Personnel Division, headed by Colonel Teki Kolaneci.
 - c. Political Division, headed by Major General Hysni Kapo, a nurse before World War II.
 - d. Mobilization Division, headed by Major General Haxhi Lleshi, a prominent Communist.
 - e. Border Protection and War Division. The three infantry divisions and the border units were under the command of this division.
 - f. Artillery Division, headed by Major General Tahir Katarea, a well-known Communist from Shkoder. The offices of the Artillery Division were in a building about 200 meters from the building housing the Ministry of National Defense. Three independent artillery brigades were under the command of this division.
 - g. Command of Rear Division. [REDACTED]
 - h. Medical Division.

2. The headquarters of 5 Infantry Division was in Gjinokaster. The division had about 10,000 men who were divided into infantry battalions and one artillery regiment. Units of the division were located in the following places: Delvine, Permet, Konispol, Tepelene, and either in Mallakastra or Ballsh.
3. The headquarters of 8 Division was in Korce. The division had about 11,000 men and was commanded by Lieutenant Colonel Ido Caka from Mallakastra who

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had attended a Soviet military school. Headquarters of units of the division were located in Leskovik, Korce, Bilisht, and Kolonje or Erseke.

4. The 1 "Defense of the People" Division had its headquarters in Tirana. The division was composed of battalions which were stationed all over Albania. Headquarters of battalions of the division were in Himare, Sarande, Lesh, and Kavaje. A unit of the division was at Karaburun.
5. The following units had their headquarters in Tirana:
 - a. 1 Division, which had about 7,000 men. This division was divided into battalions.
 - b. Antiaircraft artillery regiment which had approximately 3,700 men. This regiment was armed with recently received Czech model 1940 75 mm. guns. Units of the regiment were scattered throughout the country.
 - c. Communications regiment, composed of 400 to 450 men. Four or five men from this regiment were attached to each company of the Albanian armed forces.
 - d. Tank battalion, which had 45 medium tanks with 40 mm. guns.
6. The headquarters of 1 Independent Artillery Brigade was on the main boulevard in Durres. The brigade had the code name "Mijo Ulkinaki" and the identity number 2300. The following were members of the staff:
 - a. Colonel Ulusi Spahiu, commanding officer. Spahiu served in the International Brigade in Spain; his wife is Spanish.
 - b. Captain First Class Sami Vincani, political commissar.
 - c. Captain First Class Koce Tolkuci, chief of the political office.
 - d. Captain Koli Daja, Workers' Party instructor.
 - e. Captain Koco Karaman, in charge of propaganda.
 - f. Captain First Class Arcile Polena, chief of staff.
 - g. Lieutenant Urlli Dokia, operations section chief.
 - h. Lieutenant Elmas Ismailati, mobilization section chief.
 - i. Lieutenant Misto Tren, political instructor.
 - j. Second Lieutenant Mihalaki File, leader of the Military Youth Organization.
 - k. Lieutenant Jaub Mloja, officer in charge of teaching reading and writing.
 - l. Lieutenant Mamik Cicko, deputy brigade commander in charge of antiaircraft batteries.
7. The staff of rear echelon was attached to the headquarters of this brigade and it had the following staff personnel:
 - a. Commanding Officer: Captain Janaki Karapetaki
 - b. Executive Officer: Lieutenant Koco Komoni
 - c. Communications Chief: Lieutenant Perikli Lazar
 - d. Assistant to the Communications Chief: Second Lieutenant Esad Cami
 - e. Chief of the Arms Repair Shop: Second Lieutenant Idaj Lilo
 - f. Clothing Supply Officer: Lieutenant Ismet Shehu
 - g. Food Supply Officer: Lieutenant Lefter Moska
 - h. Finance Officer: Captain Osman Iljazi
 - i. Physical Culture: Second Lieutenant Muslim Mustafa
 - j. Editor of the military newspaper: Second Lieutenant Petrit Cami
 - k. Manager of Officers' Club and Mess: unknown
8. 1 Independent Artillery Brigade had 6 groups. Each group had 3 or 4 batteries, 1,027 men, 185 officers, and 38 non-commissioned officers. Each battery had 3 or 4 sections; each section had 1 artillery piece, and occasionally a 20 mm. machine gun was assigned to a section. If a group had 4 batteries, the fourth battery was always an antiaircraft battery with 4 sections.

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9. 1 Group, 1 Independent Artillery Brigade had its headquarters in Shengjin. The group had one battery of three sections in each of the following places: Shengjin, Pulaj, and Kep i Rodonit. The commanding officer of the group was Captain Ibrahim Djaholi, the Political Commissar was Lieutenant Ilmi Kokosi, and the Chief of Staff was Lieutenant Tekiji Huseni.
10. 2 Group, 1 Independent Artillery Brigade had its headquarters in Durres. The group had four batteries located as follows:
- A battery of three pieces in Durres at the Venetian Fort.
 - A battery in Kala e Turres. Two sections of the battery were in Kala e Turres, and one section was in Skamb i Kavajes (Banja Drac).
 - A battery of three pieces in Porta Romana.
 - An antiaircraft battery of four pieces in Durres at the palace of King Zog.
11. 3 Group, 1 Independent Artillery Brigade had its headquarters in Kavaje.
12. 4 Group, 1 Independent Artillery Brigade had its headquarters in Vlone. The headquarters of the group was 3 kilometers from the city of Vlone on the road to Himare, and about 800 meters from the port of Vlone. The commanding officer of the group was Captain Seid Dautaj, the political commissar was Lieutenant Izet Zanelli, and the chief of staff was Lieutenant Dori Matka. The group had 4 batteries located as follows:
- A battery of 3 pieces in Seman, near Fier.
 - A battery of 3 pieces in Kep i Trelimes (Triport). One section and a 20 mm. machine gun of this battery was in Pasha Liman.
 - A battery of 3 pieces in Karaburun near Vlone.
 - An antiaircraft battery of 4 sections on the hill above Vlone.
13. 5 Group, 1 Independent Artillery Brigade had its headquarters on Saseno Island. The group had 4 batteries, one of which was an antiaircraft battery of 4 sections. The largest caliber guns in Albania were on Saseno Island. These included two 202 mm. guns which were left undamaged by the Italians. In January 1951 there were 150 men on Saseno Island. In the spring of 1951 there were no Soviets on the island.
14. 6 Group, 1 Independent Artillery Brigade had its headquarters in Sarande. The commanding officer of the group was Captain Tusi Laska, the political commissar was Lieutenant Zenel Emil, and the chief of staff was Lieutenant Medi Islam. The group had 3 batteries located as follows:
- One battery in Lukove. One section of this battery was in Porte e Palermos.
 - One battery in Sarande.
 - One battery in Monastir, opposite Corfu.
- Each of the batteries had 3 or 4 guns with calibers ranging from 105 to 150 mm.
15. 2 Independent Special Brigade had its headquarters in Burrel in the Mati area. The unit was organized to fight resistance groups, and units are dispatched to areas where they are needed.
16. 3 Independent "Asim Zenel" Brigade had its headquarters in the village of Mesatlik, Elbasan area. A field artillery unit was attached to this brigade. The brigade is considered to be a reserve force.
17. The engineer brigade had its headquarters in Shkoder. The brigade often changed the location of its headquarters. The headquarters was previously in Vlone where the unit was constructing military barracks.

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18. The Independent Automobile Battalion was under the Command of the Rear Division of the Ministry of National Defense. It was divided into two detachments, one of which was in Tirana and one in Durres. The battalion had about 80 vehicles, most of which were Czech Skoda, Tatra, and Praga manufacture. The garages in Tirana were in the immediate vicinity of the airfield. The detachment at Durres had garages at Plepa Banja which is about seven kilometers from Durres on the road to Kavaje. The garages were about 200 meters from the road and they consisted of 5 single-story buildings, 120 x 8 meters. No tanks were stored in the garages. The buildings were used also for the repair shop of military vehicles and for the military drivers school.
 19. The General Command of Reserve Mountain Artillery (R.K.P.) had its headquarters in Berat. This command was directly subordinate to the Ministry of National Defense. Under the command there were two artillery units, each of which had 450 men. The 2 regiments of this command had mountain artillery guns, mortars, and mules.
 20. In Zemblak there was one artillery group with two medium tanks. In Pogradec there were one or two mountain artillery regiments.
 21. In 1945 a group of 370 young men was sent to the Soviet Union to be trained as Air Force officers and non-commissioned officers. In 1947 another group was recruited and sent to the Soviet Union for training. In June 1951 no men from either group had returned to Albania.
 22. The Tirana airfield is about three kilometers from the downtown area on the road to Durres. The airfield is about two by two and one-half kilometers and is not paved. There were only two buildings on the field and no hangars. The field was being used by Soviet, Polish, and Czech military and commercial planes. The airfield of Korce is about one by one and one-half kilometers, and is about one kilometer from Korce on the road to Bilisht. 25X1
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field there was only one building and no hangars.
23. The Albanian Navy had 45 to 50 officers and 200 to 250 men. The commander of the Navy was Captain Sotir Sicka from Durres, and the Political Commissar was Captain Petro Prifti from Korce. The Navy had 8 Soviet patrol boats, each of which was armed with one 20 mm. machine guns, 3 patrol boats which were given to Albania by Poland, and 2 small unarmed transport vessels.
 24. In 1945 a group of 110 men was sent to Yugoslavia for training with the Yugoslav Navy. They returned to Albania in 1948 as Navy non-commissioned officers. At present only 35 of this group are on active service.
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- a. The largest ammunition dump in Albania was located at Librazhd, which is 35 kilometers southeast of Elbasan (sic). Two detachments of soldiers which were subordinated to the Command of the Rear of the Ministry of National Defense guarded the dump.
 - b. The old barracks near the airfield of Korce were being used to store the ammunition of 8 Division.
 - c. An ammunition dump, 50 x 12 x 3 meters, was located 2 kilometers north of Durres on the road to Porta Romana.
 - d. Artillery and light arms ammunition were stored in the underground rooms of the barrack of Porta Romana.

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26. The principal gasoline storage tanks were located about one kilometer from Durres on the road to Tirana at an old AGIP bulk station. At that point there were three storage tanks eight meters high and eight meters in diameter. The tanks were surrounded by a wall and were guarded by state security units. The gasoline supply came from the Kucove refinery and from abroad. In the summer of 1950 (probably August) [redacted] unloaded gasoline in Durres. In Porta Romana there was another gasoline storage depot,

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27. [redacted] the refinery at Kucove cannot meet local consumption demands, but nevertheless, about two times each month the Soviet freighter MICHURIN goes to Vlone and loads the oil which is brought to Vlone by pipeline from Kucove. At Patos a new oil refinery has almost been completed.

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28. [redacted]
Soviet "instructors" were assigned to division and brigade headquarters, and there were Soviet officers assigned to the Officers' School in Tirana. There were Soviet technical experts assigned to the sugar refinery in Korce, to the oil wells and oil refinery at Kucove, and to the construction of the new refinery at Patos.
29. Several Soviet officers brought their families to Tirana, and they occupied the best houses and apartment buildings. They had their own stores which were supplied with articles from Poland and Czechoslovakia. The families of the officers were well-dressed and had cars for their personal use.
30. In Tirana in the rear of the building housing the Ministry of National Defense there was a powerful military radio station which was in contact with all divisions and brigades.

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